



# Northern Great Plains Network

## Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

February 2003



***I&M Program Charter:*** The Superintendents on the Board of Directors (Bill Supernaugh, Ruthann Knudson, and Andy Banta) have received a draft of a charter. I believe we are very close to circulating a copy to all a parks for review and approval. As you know, we need this signed by all Superintendents BEFORE we get our Vital Signs funding.

***I&M Program Personnel:*** In light of the fact that we should be getting \$150k of Vital Signs money this fiscal year (i.e., permanent funding), I've let expire the certificate for our term computer assistant position. Rather, I would like to hire a permanent Data Manager and perhaps a permanent Biological Technician (pending approval by the recently formed Board of Directors). In the interim, the I&M Program continues to fund staff at Badlands NP to enter data into NPSpecies.

***Supplementing our Field Inventories:*** This is a reminder that if you would like to supplement the work being done by any of our Principle Investigators I would be happy to support the work under our existing agreements. The Missouri NRR is doing this with our herp inventory. The park will provide \$8,690 to expand the work conducted in 2003 and to continue the inventories in 2004. If any park would like Dr. Schmidt, Dr. Smith, or Arvind Panjabi to conduct new or additional work at their park let me know and I'll be happy assist.

***Project Changes:*** Dr. Schmidt's mammal work planned for this summer at the Missouri National Recreational River will be deferred until 2004. This will allow her to focus her time and effort on the other parks in 2003 (with an emphasis on bats), and then in 2004 she can focus all her efforts on the Missouri NRR. We may also defer some of our herp work until 2004 due to the high likelihood of another dry spring and summer. Dr. Smith and I expect to make a firm decision on this by the end of March. (Dr. Smith encourages parks to contact him at 605 642-6879 or [briansmith@bhsu.edu](mailto:briansmith@bhsu.edu) should they make any interesting observations or have questions in regards to herps.)

***Herp Work at Niobrara:*** As discussed at our February meeting, the I&M Program will fund \$10,000 worth of herp inventories at Niobrara Scenic River under our existing herp agreement. Although the park has already met the 90% objective, the proposed work will greatly add to our knowledge on species presence, abundance, and distribution.

***Bird Permits:*** As discussed at our meeting, I have applied for park permits to conduct the bird inventories on behalf of Arvind Panjabi, the Principle Investigator. I suspect you will be receiving notification of the application, if you haven't already. Please process the applications.

***“National Science Foundation” Reports:*** About a month ago you all received a request to report on research conducted in your parks. At that time I told you I would handle the reporting for all I&M Program funding projects. I have submitted the information to the Regional Office.

***Voucher Storage:*** I’m happy to report that I have heard from most of the members of the Voucher Committee and they all recommend working with the Bell Museum at the U. of Minnesota. I will contact the people there and see if I can complete the agreement, obligate funds, and get those specimens to them.

***ANCS+ Data:*** I have received ANCS+ output from many of you. Thanks. Unfortunately, some of the databases did not export well (i.e., problems with parsing the fields). Fortunately, I found someone at the national level who has offered to export the data from the national consolidated database (cleanly, he assures me), all I need is a release from the parks. Therefore, I have faxed many of you a release form. Please process and fax to the number on the form (i.e., not to me).

***U. of South Dakota Herbarium Search:*** As soon as the paperwork is processed, Katherine Solberg will be hired under the STEP program for purposes of continuing the herbarium search started by Sandee Dingman last fall. I’m happy to report the Yellowstone, Northern Colorado, and Southern Colorado Networks will also fund the project (since Sandee’s work indicated that some specimens may come from those networks as well).